TRIAL DATA SHEET

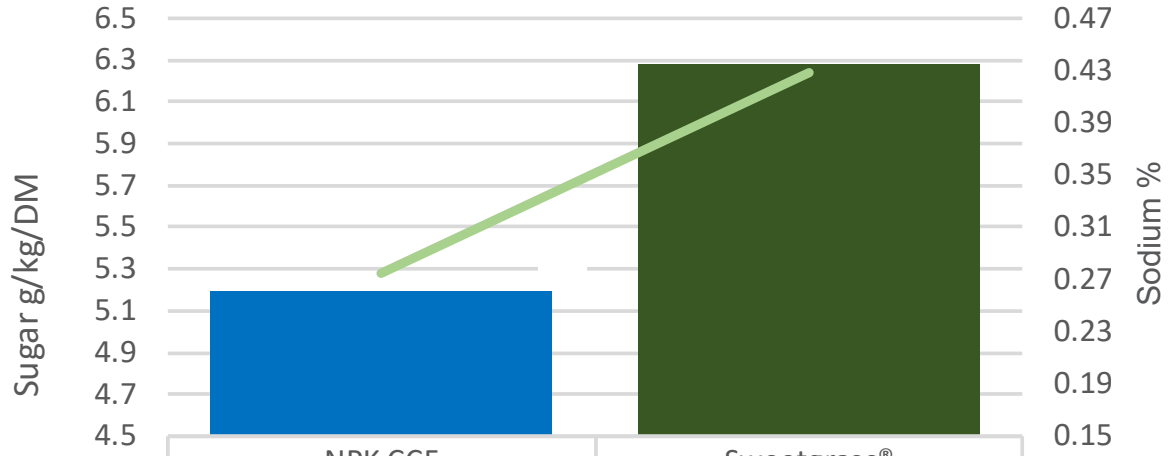
Sweetgrass

Objective:	To assess whether an Origin Sweetgrass® fertiliser enhanced with sodium could increase the sugar content of grass silage to improve its palatability compared to a 'standard' complex compound CCF
Crop:	Grass silage
Location:	Athy, Co. Kildare, Ireland
Date:	April to September 2019
Researcher:	National University of Ireland, Galway
Method:	Fertiliser was applied prior to each of two cuts of grass silage in June and September – the same amount of N was applied in both treatments
Measurements:	Full mineral analysis and feed value
Trial code:	OFNUI09/2019

Sodium is essential in optimising sugar content, improving palatability and dry matter intakes. In conserved grass, sugars convert to acids which aid fermentation and preservation.

Sodium plays a key role in optimising mineral balances and reducing the risk of hypomagnesaemia.

Results: Sodium and sugar content of grass silage



	NPK CCF	Sweetgrass®
Sugar g/kg/DM	5.192	6.283
Sodium %	0.275	0.428

Compared to the 'standard' NPK Complex Compound fertilisers, Sweetgrass®:

- ✔ Increased the sodium content by 56% = Higher palatability and intake
- ✔ Increased the sugar content by 21% = Optimum fermentation and preservation
- ✔ Reduced the K:Na ratio by 33% = Reduced risk of hypomagnesaemia

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